both Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister, Assam expressed their concern over the committed expenses on salaries, wages, pensions and interest payments of State, which are more than the entire revenue receipts of the State from all sources. As such, the Government of Assam was requested to downsize the administration, outsource services, increase revenue mobilization and restructure finances to improve the fiscal situation of the State. Consequently, the Government of Assam has stopped virtually all large scale recruitments and submitted VRS schemes for employees of the Cooperative Societies, Assam State Transport Corporation, Power Department and for the employees of certain PSUs. These VRS schemes have since been approved by the Planning Commission.

Development of rivers and waterways in NER

1048. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended development of rivers and waterways in the North Eastern Region to spur economic growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cost involved in the development programme and funding scheme thereof; and

(c) by when preliminary survey of the project etc. is likely to be initiated.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the Prime Minister's announcement of New initiatives for the North-Eastern Region made at Guwahati on October 27, 1996, the Planning Commission set up a High Level Commission under Shri S.P. Shukla, Member, Planning Commission to critically examine the backlog in respect of Basic Minimum Services and gaps in infrastructure sectors for development of States in North-Eastern Region. The recommendations of the High Level Commission, in its report of March 1997, *inter-alia* cover the sectors of irrigation, flood control, hydropower and inland water transport for development of rivers and waterways. The Union Government through its various agencies has since taken several steps for development of water sources in the North-Eastern region like formulating a Centrally Sponsored

Scheme with outlay of Rs. 150 crores for critical anti-erosion schemes in Brahmaputra-Barak valley, preparation of a detailed project report costing Rs. 190 crore for protection of Mujuli island, taking up the Rs. 540.99 crore Pagladiya dam project and Rs. 30.9 crore Harrang Drainage Schemes as Central Sector Schemes in Assam, handing over of Tipaimukh Dam Project to NEEPCO for pre-construction activities and Dihang and Subansiri projects to National Hydro Power Corporation for investigations. For development of irrigation facilities, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme launched in 1996-97 is being a availed of by the North-Eastern States to complete on going projects. Rs. 288 crore has been released to the States in this region in the Ninth Plan for major, medium and minor schemes under the programme. The Union Government has also accorded high priority for development of inland water transport in this region. Maintenance and upgradation works on National Waterway No. 2 from Dhubri to Sadiya are continuously carried out. For development of State waterways, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100% grant assistance has been introduced. Techno-economic feasibility study for development of Barak river between Karimganj and Lakhipur has been conducted. An inland water transit and trade protocol exists between India and Bangladesh.

Annual Planned outlay for Uttar Pradesh

†1049. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sanctioned amount of the annual planned outlay for the year 2000-2001 for Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the targets set for agro industrial production and employment opportunities in the annual plan of the State, item-wise;

(c) the estimated amount provided to the State in the annual plan for the year 2001-2002; and

(d) the details of the plan outlay in the annual plan of the State, region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (d) The approved annual

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.